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## In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1. (Original) Method for amplification of a target RNA sequence comprising the following steps:
  - (a) annealing a first primer to the target RNA sequence, said first primer comprising a hybridizing sequence, which is complementary to and hybridizes to at least a first segment of the target RNA sequence, operatively associated with a promoter sequence;
  - (b) extending said first primer in a reaction catalyzed by a DNA polymerase, forming a first RNA/cDNA hybrid nucleic acid molecule;
  - (c) selectively removing the target RNA sequence of the first RNA/cDNA hybrid nucleic acid molecule forming a first single stranded cDNA sequence;
  - (d) annealing a second primer to the obtained first single stranded cDNA sequence, said second primer comprising a hybridizing sequence which is complementary to and hybridizes to a first segment of the first single stranded cDNA sequence;
  - (e) extending said second primer in a reaction catalyzed by a DNA polymerase to form a first double stranded DNA molecule; and
  - (f) employing the first double stranded DNA molecule of step (e) in the preparation of a plurality of RNA transcripts that are complementary to the target RNA sequence in a reaction catalyzed by a DNA-dependent RNA polymerase with specificity for the promoter sequence comprised in the first primer;

wherein the first primer comprises a hybridizing sequence of 7 to 14 nucleotides, a transcription enhancing sequence, and an anchor which is capable of binding to a second segment of the target RNA sequence, and/or wherein the second primer comprises a hybridizing sequence of 7 to 14 nucleotides, an amplification enhancing sequence and an anchor which is capable of binding to a second segment of the first single stranded cDNA.

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- 2. (Original) Method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
- (g) annealing the second primer to the RNA transcripts produced in step (f);
- (h) extending the second primer in a reaction catalyzed by the DNA polymerase to form a second RNA/cDNA hybrid nucleic acid molecule;
- (i) selectively removing the RNA of the second RNA/cDNA hybrid molecule to obtain a second single stranded cDNA molecule;
- (j) annealing the first primer to the obtained second single stranded cDNA sequence;
- (k) extending the 3' end of the second single stranded cDNA molecule in a reaction catalyzed by the DNA polymerase using the first primer as a template to form a second partly double stranded DNA molecule comprising a double stranded promotor site;
- (l) employing the second double stranded DNA molecule of step (k) in the preparation of a plurality of RNA transcripts complementary to the target RNA sequence in a reaction catalyzed by the DNA-dependent RNA polymerase with specificity for the promotor sequence in the first primer.
- 3. (Previously presented) Method of claim 1, wherein the first primer comprises, going from the 5' end to the 3' end, an anchor, a transcription enhancing sequence, and a hybridizing sequence consisting of 7 to 14 nucleotides which are complementary to a first segment of the target RNA sequence of 7 to 14 contiguous nucleotides.
- 4. (Previously presented) Method of claim 1, wherein the second primer comprises, going from the 5' end to the 3' end, an anchor, an amplification enhancing sequence, and a hybridizing sequence consisting of 7 to 14 nucleotides which are complementary to the first segment of the first single stranded cDNA sequence of 7-14 contiguous nucleotides.
- 5. (Previously presented) Method a of claim 1, wherein the hybridizing sequence comprises 7-10 nucleotides which are complementary to a first segment of the target RNA sequences of 7 to 10 contiguous nucleotides.

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6. (Previously presented) Method of claim 1, wherein the anchor is an optionally modified oligonucleotide, comprising 7 to 22 optionally modified nucleotides which binds to the second segment of the target RNA sequence or to the second segment of the first single stranded cDNA molecule.

- 7. (Previously presented) Method of claim 6, wherein the anchor is an optionally modified oligonucleotide, comprising 7 to 14, preferably 9-14, optionally modified nucleotides.
- 8. (Previously presented) Method of claim 6, wherein the anchor comprises DNA, RNA, 2'O-methyl modified nucleotides and/or LNA.
  - 9. (Previously presented) Method of claim 1, wherein the anchor comprises PNA.
- 10. (Previously presented) Method of claim 1, wherein the anchor comprises a protein, or fragments derived thereof, which bind(s) to the second segment of the target RNA sequence or the second segment of the first single stranded cDNA molecule.
- 11. (Previously presented) Method of claim 10, wherein the protein, or fragments derived thereof, are chosen from the group consisting of a RNA binding protein, a polyC-binding protein, a polyA-binding protein and a protein comprising a zinc-finger, a restriction enzyme, and an antibody, or fragments thereof.
- 12. (Previously presented) Method of claim 1, wherein the second segment is separated from the first segment by 0 to 6 nucleotides, preferably by 0 to 4 nucleotides, more preferably by 0 to 3 nucleotides.
- 13. (Currently amended) Method of claim 1, wherein the transcription enhancing sequence reads:

5'-AAACGGCACGAGC-3' (SEQ ID NO:39).

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14. (Currently amended) Method of claim 1, wherein the amplification enhancing sequence reads:

## 5'-GACTTCAGGACTTCAGG-3' (SEQ ID NO:40).

- 15. (Previously presented) Method of claim 1, wherein the promoter sequence is the bacteriophage T7 promoter sequence.
- 16. (Previously presented) Method of claim 1, wherein the DNA polymerase is the avian myeloblastosis virus (AMV) reverse transcriptase.
- 17. (Previously presented) Method of claim 1, wherein the target RNA sequence is a segment of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
- 18. (Previously presented) Method of claim 1, wherein the target nucleic acid is a segment of the human hepatitis C virus.
- 19. (Previously presented) Method of claim 1, wherein the RNA transcripts are detected by one or more sequence-specific probes.
- 20. (Previously presented) Method of claim 19, wherein the sequence-specific probe hybridizes to a sequence identical to the amplification sequence of the second primer.
- 21. (Withdrawn) Primer comprising a hybridizing sequence, which is complementary to and hybridizes to a first segment of a target RNA sequence, and an anchor binding to a second segment of the target RNA sequence.
- 22. (Withdrawn) Primer, comprising, going from the 5' end to the 3' end, an anchor, a transcription enhancing sequence or an amplification enhancing sequence, and a hybridizing sequence of 7–14 nucleotides, preferably 7–10 nucleotides.

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23. (Withdrawn) Primer of claim 21, wherein the anchor is an optionally modified oligonucleotide, comprising 7 to 22 optionally modified nucleotides, which bind to the second segment of the target RNA sequence or to the second segment of the first single stranded cDNA molecule.

- 24. (Withdrawn) Primer of claim 23, wherein the anchor is an optionally modified oligonucleotide, comprising 7 to 14, preferably 9 to 14, optionally modified nucleotides.
- 25. (Withdrawn) Primer of claim 21, wherein the anchor comprises DNA, RNA, 2'O-methyl modified nucleotides and/or LNA nucleotides.
  - 26. (Withdrawn) Primer of claim 21, wherein the anchor comprises PNA.
- 27. (Withdrawn) Primer of claim 21, wherein the anchor comprises a protein, or fragments derived thereof, which are capable of specific binding to the second segment of the target RNA sequence or the second segment of the first single stranded cDNA sequence.
- 28. (Withdrawn) Primer as claimed in claim 27, wherein the protein, or fragments derived thereof, is selected from the group consisting of an RNA binding protein, a polyC-binding protein, a polyA-binding protein and a protein comprising a zinc-finger, a restriction enzyme, and an antibody or fragments thereof.
- 29. (Withdrawn and Currently amended) Primer of claim 21, wherein the transcription enhancing sequence reads

5' AAACGGGCACGAGC-3' (SEQ ID NO:39).

30. (Withdrawn and Currently amended) Primer of claim 21, wherein the amplification enhancing sequence reads

5'-GACTTCAGGACTTCAGG-3' (SEQ ID NO:40).

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- 31. (Withdrawn) Primer of claim 21, wherein the promoter sequence is the bacteriophage T7 promoter sequence.
- 32. (Withdrawn) Kit for the amplification and/or detection of a target RNA sequence, comprising at least one or more primers as claimed in claim 21.
- 33. (Withdrawn and Currently amended) Kit of claim[[ 33]] 32, further comprising one or more sequence-specific probes, an amplification buffer, and/or one or more enzymes.